Wilts

CHIPPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICERS Annual report for the year 1 9 1 9.

To, The Chairman and members of the Chippenham Rural District Council,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again the pleasure of presenting my Annual Report, The War being happily over I am directed by the Ministry of Health to revert to a more detailed report in accordance with a plan laid down by them.-

Natural & Social Conditions. Population 15562, estimated to be 13615.

The District is composed of two small towns surrounded by 24 Villages.

The soil is corn brash or rock with some good grass land, here there are rich pasture lands and dairy farms where a large amount of Milk is produced. The district is quite prosperous, each village or group of villages have their ~~f~~ football and cricket fields. Agriculture is the most important accupation but there is a Soap Factory, Glove Factory, Paper Mills and inportant Stone works.

None of these works effect the health of the district.

Vital Statistics. There were 200 deaths registered, making a death rate of 14.68 per 1000. Population 13615. Rate for England and Wales 18.8. There were 210 births making a birth rate of 14.80 . population 14183. For England and Wales 18.5.

Poor Law Relief. About £2.200.

Sick or accident cases are admitted into the Cottage Hospital at Chippenham or the Bath Hospital. The Isolation Hospital is also extensively used, during the year 17 cases of Scarlatina, 13 Diphtheria and 2 Enteric fever were notified all were admitted into the Isolation Hospital. The two Enteric cases were sisters, the source of infection was traced to the use of impure water and local infection.

There is little or no poverty in the district most of the cottagers have good gardens which are a great help. There are also allotments in most of the villages.

Water Supply. Taking it as a whole the natural water supply is poor, of later years the mains of the Urban District have been extended and parts of Langley Burrell, Chippenham Without Kington Langley and Hardenhuish receive their supply from this course. Corsham and Lacock are supplied from ~~Lockswell~~ Loxwell springs.

These supplies are as a rule constant and excellent in quality. The question of extending the Chippenham Main water from the Plough Inn to Kington St. Michael was considered by you, a public Meeting was held at Kington St. Michael, the inhabitants were opposed (on account of expense) to the scheme, so nothing was done. The next dry summer will see the village short of water, the length of pipe required would be about a mile.

The water supply of Box has not been satisfactory for some time Schemes are now being considered by your Council it is likely important improvement will take place soon.

Rivers & Streams. The River Avon passes through a portion of the District it received the effluent from the Chippenham Sewerage Works after filtration.

Drainage & Sewerage. The Box Brook is polluted to a serious extent by the sewerage from the town and needs attantion its distance from any house has hitherto prevented a nuisance to public health. Lacock drains into the Avon. At Corsham the drainage system is old fashioned and defective and should receive attention.

Inspection; In company with Mr. Rhodes I have inspected all of the worst Cottages and their surroundings. A special Inspection was made for the purpose of assisting the carrying out of the Housing Act. Also all the localities where infectious disease was or had been present.

Schools. The Sanitary condition of the schools is good, the supply of good drinking water might be better to some of them. I have visited schools when necessary & taken swabs for bacterialogical examination from children who sat at school near those who are suffering from diphtheria.

Food. The supply of milk is abundant and good and it has been given at reduced prices to Mothers & Children according to the act of 1918.

The dairies are visited and reported upon by Mr. Rhodes who is the Inspector of Dairies. Model regulations have bben considered by the Council and a copy off such proposed Regulations has been forwarded to the Ministry of Health for their sanction.

I was called in by one of the butchers to examine a carcass of beef which he did not think was fit to be sold for the food of man. I condemned the carcass which was destroyed by Mr. Rhodes.

Isolation Hospital.

During the past year 59 Cases have been admitted into the Isolation Hospital- Owing to the war, some necessary repairs and aditions had to stand over; The Committee are now fortunate in having been able to get tradesmen to carry out part of the work.

The advance of Medical Knowledge and science demand a more detailed treatment of patients if we are to get the full advantage of hospital treatment hence to prevent what are called "Return" and "Carrier" Cases observation and convalescent wards are needed. The Hospital is in more general use than was anticipated when the Hospital was built more nurses are required than sleeping accommodation was provided for. Hence the need for more bedrooms. Now- A bathroom for Officers use is required.

The telephone should also be installed.

The whole building requires painting and distempering.

During the year 60 cases of Zymotic disease were notified (Diphtheria- Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever) from the Urban and Rural Sanitary Districts, 59 of them were admitted to the hospital.

This shows the extensive use made of the Hospital.

Mild cases if they remain at home spread the disease.

The Hospital is managed by a joint Committee of the County Council and the Urban and Rural Sanitary Districts. Miss. B. Matthews has been appointed Matron. She is a qualified nurse and has had extensive experience in the fever wards.

I have the honour to remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Willm. Thos. Briscoe B. A. M. D.

Medical Officer of Health.

Causes of Death in the Chippenham Rural District 1919.

Causes of Death.	Males	Females.
All causes- Civilians only	90	110
Diphtheria & Croup		1
Influenza	8	5
Pulmonary tubercolosis	6	5
Tuberculous meningitis		1
Other tuberculous diseases	2	
Cancer, malignant disease	11	13
Meningitis		1
Organic Heart Disease	13	12
Bronchitis	5	12
Pneumonia(all forms)	4	3
Other respiratory diseases	2	1
Diarrh-œa &c. (under 2 years)		1
Appendicitis & typhlitis		1
Cirrhosis of liver		1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2	3
Puerperal fever		3
Congenital debility &c.	2	3
Violance apart from suicide	3	1
Suicide	1	
Other defined diseasea	29	43
Causes ill-defined or unknown	2	
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	4	11
TOTAL BIRTHS	109	101
Legitimate	103	94
Illegitimate	6	7

POPULATION for purposes of Birth Rate 14183

" " " " Death " 13615

Summary of Housing Work during 1919.

	Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1918.					Action under Section 15.				Action under Sect. 17						Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1919.		
	Houses not reasonably fit for human habitation (Section 15)	Houses totally unfit for human habitation (Section 17)	Houses with minor defects (Public Health Acts)	Houses inspected under the Act & Regulations in 1919.	Houses found satisfactory on inspection	Houses found not reasonably fit for human habitation	Houses for which notices were withdrawn to execute works	Houses in respect of which notices were satisfactorily complied with	Action under Section 15 of the Act in case of houses with minor defects under Sect. 15 owing to the knowing that commenced before 31st Oct. 1919.	Houses found to be totally unfit for human habitation	Houses in respect of which Preliminary notices were served	Houses found to be totally unfit for human habitation	Houses in respect of which Sanitary Authority have taken steps for the closing of dwellings	Houses closed as unfit for human habitation in pursuance of closing orders made.	Houses totally unfit for human habitation (Sect. 15)	Houses with minor defects (Public Health Acts)	Houses totally unfit for human habitation (Section 17)
No.	364	3	435	273	56	118	115	74		69	15	4	4	4	3	458	489	4

Total No of Inspections made in 1919. 796. Informal notices served 14. 12 Complied with

Total No of Nuisances in hand at close of 1918 No. at close of 1919 2

" " " during 1919 14. abated during 1919 12.

There are a scarcity of houses in Corsham Box, Christian Malford, Lacock, Biddestone, Nettleton & Atteton Drew, and Castle Combe.

No of cases of overcrowding dealt with during 1919. 5 2 abated 9 outstanding.

Housing Schemes are contemplated in Corsham Box, Lacock, Biddestone, Christian Malford, Nettleton & Castle Combe. & Atteton Drew.

Number of new houses built during 1919 (Working Class dwellings) 2.